

## **Mental Retardation/Related Disabilities Waiver**

- The SC Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs approved amendments to the MR/RD waiver on July 17, 2009.
- DDSN and DHHS plan to submit the final MR/RD waiver document to CMS (the Federal Medicaid agency) by September 1, 2009 for a January 1, 2010 implementation date.
- DDSN will hold 5 educational seminars around the state in August regarding the changes to the MR/RD waiver for consumers and their family members, and DSN Board and private provider staff. These meetings will also offer information about the 5 new day services that will be available by January 2010.

### **Explanation of the MR/RD Waiver Amendments**

#### **There are 4 amendments:**

##### **1. Maintain the following core services without change:**

- a. residential habilitation (i.e. CTH, SLP and CRCF)
- b. adult day health with/without nursing and transportation
- c. day activity
- d. community services
- e. support center
- f. career preparation
- g. employment
- h. adult dental
- i. psychological counseling
- j. behavior support
- k. private vehicle modifications
- l. prescription medications
- m. environmental modifications

- n. audiology
- o. vision - vision exams are eliminated in the waiver since one exam per year is allowed under the regular Medicaid state plan program. The waiver will cover the purchase of one pair of eyeglasses per year if needed.
- p. institutional respite
- q. assistive technology for diapers, wipes, and under pads

**2. Eliminate the following services since they are covered under the regular Medicaid state plan program:**

- a. physical therapy
- b. occupational therapy
- c. speech/language pathology

**3. Eliminate daily respite which is replaced by hourly respite. Place service use caps on the following services:**

- a. companion – capped at a maximum of 28 hours per week
- b. adult attendant – capped at a maximum of 28 hours per week
- c. personal care II – capped at a maximum of 28 hours per week

The waiver participant may use a single service or combine companion, adult attendant and personal care II services. The single service or the combination of the 3 services cannot exceed 28 hours per week.

- d. in-home hourly respite – capped at a maximum of 68 hours per month

There are exceptions to the 68 hours per month. If any one (1) of the three (3) conditions is met, the participant may receive up to 240 units per month upon DDSN approval:

- i. Caregiver has been hospitalized or is receiving medical treatment causing the caregiver to be away from home for lengthy periods during the day for which respite takes the place of the caregiver to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the waiver participant.

- ii. The waiver participant is medically complex or severely disabled to the extent that the caregiver must provide him/her constant hands on/direct care and supervision for which the caregiver is not paid for 16 hours of a 24-hour day.

A Medically Complex person is a person who has a serious and complex medical condition resulting in substantial physical impairment or disability requiring comprehensive care management defined as extensive hands-on assistance or total care on a routine basis. Such persons need extraordinary supervision and observation or frequent or life saving administration of specialized treatments.

A Severely Disabled person is a person who has substantial physical or behavioral impairment or disability such that the degree of impairment or disability requires extensive hands-on assistance or total care on a routine basis.

In both cases the emphasis is on the characteristics of the management of the condition/impairment/disability versus the condition itself, and the hardship the complexity of managing the condition/impairment/disability places on the caregiver.

- iii. If support center services are unavailable to a participant age 12 to exiting high school and the primary caregiver works fulltime during the summer months of June, July and August.

- e. personal care I – capped at 6 hours per week
- f. nursing – capped at 56 hours per week using a LPN or 42 hours per week using a RN
- g. assistive technology
  - i. liquid nutrition capped at no more than 2 cases per month
  - ii. wheelchair limited to one chair per every 5 years at a maximum of \$8,000 per chair

**4. Remove personal emergency response system from specialized medical equipment and create as a separate service.**

***Note: Please try to attend one of the 5 educational seminars DDSN will host to get more information. The dates, times and locations will be announced as soon as possible.***